



# Health of Ethiopian Animals for Rural Development (HEARD)

## Animal welfare management

### What is animal welfare?

- The protection of the health and well-being of animals
- It is the physical, physiological, and psychological well-being of an animal



- Animals are in good welfare if they are healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express natural behavior, and if they are not suffering.
- All animals need good care
- Animals rely on humans to provide care for them.
- In the same way, humans rely on these animals as well.

### Why should we give care to animals?

Animal welfare has clear benefits for animals and people.

- Reduce livestock losses due to injuries, stress, malnutrition, and diseases
- Savings on animal treatment costs
- Increase livestock productivity and family livelihoods (food security, nutrition, and income)
- Enhance trade opportunities for animals
- Improve animal and human health
- Improve satisfaction of the owner or carer when giving care to their animals

### How do we give care to animals?

We give care for animals by providing adequate nutritional, health, husbandry, and environmental resources for animals to the best of our ability.



- *Provide adequate water.* Not enough water can reduce how much an animal will eat, how much milk it will produce for the household and its offspring, and how well it looks or heavy it weighs at the time of sale.
- *Body condition and adequate nutrition.* Knowing how to condition score your animals can help you allocate feed to animals in need or targeted for sale.
- *Caring for wounds.* Wounds on your animals, even minor ones, can be painful and put your animal at risk of further infections, and longer recoveries and can negatively affect productivity.
- *Appropriate handling.* Animals learn to either feel fearful or comfortable with people based on how they are handled. Keep your animals free from fear, anxiety, injury, pain, and trauma.
  - Never approach animals from behind
  - Don't hit animals, yell and make loud noises when moving animals.
- Maintain good animal husbandry practices to prevent infectious diseases.
- Provide clean, well-ventilated, and spacious housing for your animals.



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